## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

Advance Trust & Life Escrow Services, LTA, as securities intermediary for Life Partners Position Holder Trust, and Alice Curtis, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, Civil No. 18-2863 (DWF/BRT)

Plaintiffs,

**ORDER** 

v.

ReliaStar Life Insurance Company,

Defendant.

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2022, the Court certified the breach of contract claims in the above-captioned action to proceed as a class action against Defendant ReliaStar Life Insurance Company ("RLIC") on behalf of (1) a class consisting of all current owners of certain universal life policies insured by RLIC "who were assessed COI charges during the Class Period, excluding policies issued in Alaska, Arkansas, New Mexico, New York, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming, policies listed in Exhibit B, and ReliaStar, its officers and directors, members of their immediate families, and their heirs, successors or assigns," and (2) a class consisting of all "current and former owners of universal life policies insured by ReliaStar written on policy forms 10830 and 10910, excluding policies issued in Alaska, Arkansas, New Mexico, New York, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming, who were assessed Waiver Rider charges during the class period." Doc. No. 211 at 31–32; see Doc. No. 149-1 (Exhibit A); Doc. No. 149-2

(Exhibit B). The Court also appointed Susman Godfrey L.L.P. as class counsel ("Class Counsel") pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(g).

WHEREAS, pursuant to the March 29, 2022 Order and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c), Class Counsel has moved the Court for an Order approving the proposed form and content of the notices to be disseminated to the Class, as well as the proposed manner for disseminating notice;

WHEREAS, RLIC does not oppose this motion;

WHEREAS, the Court has reviewed the proposed notices submitted by Class Counsel, as well as the accompanying motion, supporting documents, and declarations describing the form and manner of notice, and has found good cause for entering the following Order.

## **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that:

- Plaintiff's Motion for Approval of Form and Manner of Class Notice (Doc. No. [215]) is GRANTED.
- 2. The Court approves the form and contents of the short-form and long-form notices (collectively, the "Notices") attached as Exhibits B and C, respectively, to the Declaration of Jennifer Keough, filed on April 28, 2022. The Notices shall be amended prior to mailing to update the placeholders (identified by brackets) currently in the Notices.
- 3. The proposed form and content of the Notices meet the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c)(2)(B) because they "clearly and concisely state in plain, easily understood language: (i) the nature of the action; (ii) the definition of the

class certified; (iii) the class claims, issues, or defenses; (iv) that a class member may enter an appearance through an attorney if the member so desires; (v) that the court will exclude from the class any member who requests exclusion; (vi) the time and manner for requesting exclusion; and (vii) the binding effect of a class judgment on members under Rule 23(c)(3)." The form and content of the notices, as well as the manner of dissemination described below, therefore meet the requirements of Rule 23 and due process, constitute the best notice practicable under the circumstances, and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to all persons and entities entitled thereto.

- 4. The Court approves the retention of JND Legal Administration LLC ("JND") as the Notice Administrator.
- 5. By no later than June 10, 2022, RLIC must complete production to Class Counsel of a list of Class Members and their last known addresses.
- 6. Within fourteen (14) days of receiving a final list of Class members from RLIC (the "Notice Date"), JND shall cause the short-form notice attached as Exhibit 2 to the aforementioned Keough Declaration to be mailed, by first-class mail, postage prepaid, to all Class Members included on the list of Class members from RLIC. Prior to mailing, JND will update the addresses using the National Change of Address database. JND will re-mail any short-form notices returned by the United State Postal Service with a forwarding address.
- 7. JND shall simultaneously cause of copy of the long-form notice attached as Exhibit 3 to the aforementioned Keough Declaration to be posted on the website designed

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for this lawsuit, from which Class members may download copies of the long-form

notice.

8. JND will establish and maintain an automated toll-free number that Class

Members may call to obtain information about the litigation.

9. Class Members will be legally bound by all Court orders and judgments

made in this class action and will not be able to maintain a separate lawsuit against RLIC

for the same legal claims that are the subject of this lawsuit.

10. Class Members who wish to be excluded from the Class must send a letter

to JND requesting exclusion from the Advance Trust & Life Escrow Services, LTA v.

ReliaStar Life Insurance Company class action, with his, her, or its name, address,

telephone number, email address and signature, and must identify the RLIC insurance

policy or policies to be excluded. A Class Member with multiple RLIC policies included

in the Class may request to exclude some policies while participating in the Class with

respect to other policies. The exclusion request must be postmarked no later than forty-

five (45) days after the Notice Date (the "Exclusion Deadline").

11. Class Counsel shall file with the Court proof of mailing of the short-form

notice and proof of website posting for the long-form notice within fourteen (14) days of

the Notice Date.

12. This Order may be modified by the Court upon motion by either or both

parties, for good cause shown.

Dated: June 2, 2022

s/Donovan W. Frank
DONOVAN W. FRANK

United States District Judge